

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01

RSC-01 USSS-00 SY-04 FAA-00 WRD-01 SCA-01 OC-01 AF-04

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Z 231700Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4770

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH

AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI FLASH

AMEMBASSY TUNIS FLASH

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 5699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, NL

SUBJECT: HIJACKING OF BRITISH AIRWAYS VC-10

REF: STATE 259242

1. NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS HAS JUST ADVISED FON OFF THAT TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS AFRAID THAT RELEASE OF FIVE PRISONERS HELD BY GOE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO EFFECT FREEING OF HOSTAGES. THUS, NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INFORMALLY QUERIED WHETHER HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO TRANSFER TWO DUTCH-HELD PALESTINIAN TERROR-ISTS NEARER TO SCENE OF NEGOTIATIONS SO AS TO HAVE THEM AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE THE BARGAINING TERMS IF NECESSARY. BRITISH ARE AWARE OF THIS TUNISIAN SUGGESTION AND UK COUNSELOR IN THE HAGUE HAS SUPPORTED IT WITH DUTCH FONOFF.

2. GON DOUBTS WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO REMOVE TWO
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DUTCH-HELD PRISONERS FROM JAIL AND DESPATCH THEM TO OR

NEAR SCENE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT ACTUALLY SETTING THEM FREE. (DUTCH ARE STILL BOTHERED BY THE LAST ACT IN FRENCH EMBASSY INCIDENT IN WHICH DUTCHCREW FLEW JAPANESE TERRORISTS TO DAMASCUS IN A GOF-FURNISHED PLANE.)

3. GON AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO INFORM TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT AMBASSADOR IS AUTHORIZED TO SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR ANY FORMAL REQUEST FROM GOT CONCERNING DUTCH-HELD PALESTINIANS. IF SUCH A REQUEST IS RECEIVED, GON WILL CONSULT WITH UK. GON WILL CONSIDER REQUEST FOR LIBERATION OF DUTCH-HELD PRISONERS IF IT IS CONVINCED THAT SUCH ACTION IS REALLY NECESSARY TO SAVE LIVES. IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, PRISONERS WOULD BE FREED IN THE HAGUE AND DUTCH WOULD NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE GUARD OR ESCORT TO THEIR NEXT DESTINATION.

4. FINALLY, NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR WILL ADVISE TUNISIANS THAT ANY FURTHER KILLING OF HOSTAGES MIGHT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GON TO FREE ITS TWO PALESTINIANS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. FONOFF HAS VERIFIED THAT THERE ARE NOT RPT NO DUTCH NATIONALS ABOARD HIJACKED PLANE. PASSENGER BAARSLAG, WHOSE NAME IS OF DUTCH ORIGIN, IS REPORTEDLY A US CITIZEN.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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